

Atty. Docket No.
000407.00007

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Of: Naoto Matsumoto
U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/736,168
Filed: December 15, 2000
For: System For Rewriting Control Program
In Vending Machine

Examiner: Satish Rampuria
Group Art Unit: 2191
Confirmation No.: 8093

REPLY TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully point out that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance are understood to be predicated upon consideration of each of the claims as a whole, and not upon any specific element or elements of the claims. Applicants courteously point out that this understanding is in accordance with decisions of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. *In re Dillon*, 919 F.2d 688, 16 USPQ2d 1897, at 1902 (Fed. Cir. 1990)(*in banc*), *Symbol Technologies, Inc. v. Opticon, Inc.*, 935 F.2d 1569, 19 USPQ2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

If the Examiner believes that Applicants' understanding is incorrect and the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not predicated upon consideration of each claim as a whole, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reply to the undersigned in writing concerning this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____ /Thomas L. Evans/
Thomas L. Evans, Reg. No. 35,805

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